



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

NOV 05 2002

Mr. William B. Empson, P.E.
Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Study Manager
Kansas City Corps District of Engineers
601 E 12th Street, Rm#700
Kansas City, MO 64106

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Program Big Blue River Kansas

Dear Mr. Empson:

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Program. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The FEIS was assigned the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) number 020412.

Our review of the April 2002 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project resulted in a rating of "LO" (Lack of Objections). In that letter EPA offered comments pertaining to water quality, recreation, and environmental justice. EPA appreciates the incorporation of, and/or further analysis on these considerations in the final document. As presently proposed, EPA does not object with the Corps of Engineers' decision to move forward with the preferred alternative or the stabilizing of the dam's foundation without drawdown.

The EPA commends the work of all those persons and agencies involved in the process leading to the development of the FEIS. It is very evident that a wide range of alternatives were explored in the NEPA process in order to ensure minimal impacts to the natural environment within the project area. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (913) 551-7805.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cothorn
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Services Division

